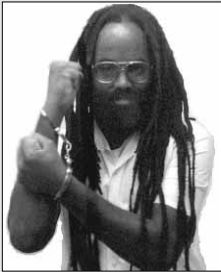


MUNDO OBRERO

Neoliberalismo y resistencia 12

FREE MUMIA NOW

Black legislators weigh in 2



CALIF. NATIVE STRUGGLE

Mall built on ancient burial site 3

BASEBALL'S BOTTOM LINE

It's not about steroids 5

TRANSJUSTICE

People of color group forms 5

JOBS DOWN, BUT

Aerospace profits up 4

Despite U.S. bombs and napalm

IRAQ RESISTS

By Leslie Feinberg

Even in the face of overwhelming Pentagon firepower and high technology, Iraqi resistance is raging.

Even after the bloodiest battle of the war, the siege of Falluja—in which the invaders had complete control of the air, enormous material supremacy, forced several hundred thousand people to flee their homes and reduced most of the city to rubble—the resistance goes on. As Pentagon warplanes continued to pound the city with bombs and missiles on Dec. 12, insurgents fought the Marines in running battles.

The Pentagon's resumed bombing of the city is an admission that triumphal boasts of imperial victory were premature.

That same weekend, eight Marines were killed in Anbar province—where Falluja and Ramadi are located.

And insurgents continue to combat U.S. occupation troops and Iraqi puppet soldiers in the northwest city of Mosul. On Dec. 11, fighters attacked a U.S. military patrol with a car bomb, rifles, grenade launchers and mortars.

Mosul continues to be a locus of resistance. On Nov. 10, two days after the Pentagon war machine had begun its major onslaught in Falluja, the insurgency carried out a coordinated offensive in Mosul. They overran the quisling police forces, forcing them to flee, leaving control of the third-largest city in Iraq briefly in the hands of the insurgency.

Since then, military strikes against occupation forces in Mosul soared during November to about 140 a week, up from an earlier high of 30 to 40. And 150 Iraqis who collaborated with the occupation have been killed there since Nov. 10.

In Baghdad province, two Marines were killed by the resistance on Dec. 13 and at least three others were wounded. The same day a suicide car blast rocked an occupation Green Zone checkpoint in Baghdad. And resistance fighters ignited a blaze near an oil pipeline in northern Iraq, 45 miles southwest of Kirkuk.



Mosul, Iraq, Dec. 14

Elections a fig leaf

Buried in the business news is a reminder of the stakes for U.S. finance capital and its imperialist competitors in this war for empire. An International Advisory and Monitoring Board established to oversee Iraq's plundered wealth complained in a report on Dec. 14 that a lack of measuring devices is making it difficult to meter how much oil is being pumped from Iraqi wells. The audit board is dominated by officials from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

All the talk about Jan. 30 elections restoring "stability" amounts to a fig leaf on the naked maneuvers to plunder Iraq's wealth.

For example, when the ruling General Council of the World Trade Organization announced Dec. 13 that it would open "membership" talks, it had to accept an application from the U.S.-appointed regime of titular prime minister Ayad Allawi, a long-time CIA operative.

One group running in the slated January elections is the Constitutional Monarchy Movement. Its slate is headed by Sharif Ali, the cousin of Iraq's last king, who was killed in the 1958 rev-

Continued on page 6



TIJUANA

Shaking hands with Cuban workers

9



Puerto Ricans tell federal court in Boston not to overrule their vote.

PUERTO RICO

Who decides election results?

8

Subscribe to Workers World

Trial subscription: \$2 for 8 weeks
One year subscription: \$25

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

Workers World Newspaper
55 W. 17 St. NY, NY 10011
212-627-2994
www.workers.org read it online

Black legislators support Mumia's release

By Monica Moorehead

On Dec. 3, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) passed a resolution during its conference in Philadelphia calling for the freedom of African American political prisoner and death-row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal. This comes on the heels of another important resolution passed at the NAACP national convention on July 15 that demanded a new trial for Abu-Jamal and condemned the racist application of the death penalty by the criminal justice system.

The NAACP convention also took place in Philadelphia, the city where Abu-Jamal was shot and arrested on Dec. 9, 1981, charged with killing a white police officer. Both resolutions were brought about by the efforts of members and supporters of International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal to help raise a broader awareness of this case and its political significance.

The sham of a trial that took place in 1982 led to a murder conviction and a death sentence for Abu-Jamal. At least 29 constitutional violations were carried out during this trial, including the systematic exclusion of Black jurors by the prosecutor. Abu-Jamal was physically removed from some of the jury proceedings after being denied his right to the legal counsel of his choice.

A worldwide movement in support of Abu-Jamal has kept him from being legally lynched by the powers that be who want to silence his revolutionary voice. Abu-Jamal, a former Black Panther, writes eloquent columns denouncing war, racism and oppression in his maximum security cell in Waynesburg, Pa., while awaiting the outcome of state and federal court appeals in efforts to win a new trial.



FREE MUMIA ABU-JAMAL NOW!

The state legislators' resolution reads: WHEREAS Mumia Abu-Jamal's 1982 trial in Philadelphia was characterized by illegal suppression of evidence, police coercion, illegal exclusion of Black jurors, and grotesquely unfair and unconstitutional rulings by the judge; and

WHEREAS the trial judge, Albert Sabo, has been quoted in a sworn statement to have vowed at the time of the trial to help the prosecution 'fry the n—'; and

WHEREAS subsequent appellate rulings have bent the law out of shape to sustain the guilty verdict of that trial; and

WHEREAS the appellate courts have also refused to consider strong evidence of Mumia Abu-Jamal's innocence, most notably a confession by Arnold Beverly to the crime; and

WHEREAS Mumia Abu-Jamal still is incarcerated on Death Row and still faces a death sentence; and

Continued on page 3

This week ...



★ **National**

Black legislators support Mumia's release 2
 Native people struggle to save shellmounds. 3
 Quannell X case ends in people's victory 3
 Prisoner describes Abu Ghraib-type conditions here . . . 4
 Aerospace profits soar as workers are cut 4
 Youth march against sweatshops 4
 Baseball owners scapegoat players on steroid issue . . . 5
 FIST organizes in West Virginia 5
 Trans people of color form political group 5
 GI dissent shakes up the Pentagon 6
 Military recruiters set back on campus. 7
 'Stop the War Week' hits streets and malls 7
 Antiwar professor speaks in U.S. 8

★ **International**

Iraq resists 1
 Who will decide Puerto Rico's election results? 8
 Cuban unionists meet with U.S. & Mexican workers . . . 9
 Cuban education is world-class 9
 Late 1980s East Germany gay/lesbian clubs 10
 Struggle vs. apartheid brings LGBT rights 11
 Philippine revolutionary speaks to the world. 11

★ **Editorials**

More than Pinochet 10
 What's killing children? 10

★ **Noticias En Español**

Neoliberalismo y resistencia en América Latina 12

WW CALENDAR

BALTIMORE

Every Sunday

Workers World Party weekly discussion and classes on revolutionary socialism. Presently we are discussing the "Communist Manifesto," its meaning for today's struggle. Everyone welcome. Join us for food and refreshments. 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. At 426 E. 31st Street, Baltimore. For info (410) 235-7040.

LOS ANGELES

Fri., Dec. 17

Film screening. "Arlington West" is a new documentary that chronicles the creation of the symbolic soldiers' cemetery erected every Sunday by the Veterans for Peace at beaches along the Southern California coastline. Hear from the

film producers Sally Marr and Peter Dudar. Also, presentations by Marcus Erikson of Vets for Peace and John Parker of the International Action Center. Sponsored by IAC-LA. 7:30 p.m. At 5274 W Pico Blvd. For info (323) 936-7266.

NEW YORK

Fri., Dec. 17

Workers World Party meeting. Hear Rebeca Toledo, a WWP leader, report back on the Cuba/North America Labor Conference held in Tijuana, Mexico, on Dec. 10-12. 7 p.m. (Dinner at 6:30) At 55 W. 17 St., 5th Fl., Manhattan. For info (212) 627-2994.

Workers World

55 West 17 Street
 New York, N.Y. 10011
 Phone: (212) 627-2994
 Fax: (212) 675-7869
 E-mail: editor@workers.org
 Web: www.workers.org
 Vol. 46, No. 51 • Dec. 23, 2004
 Closing date: Dec. 15, 2004

Editor: Deirdre Griswold; Technical Editor: Lal Roohk
 Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, Leslie Feinberg, Monica Moorehead, Gary Wilson; Contributing Editors: Greg Butterfield, Pat Chin, Fred Goldstein, Teresa Gutierrez, Milt Neidenberg; Technical Staff: Shelley Ettinger, Adrian Garcia, Maggie Vascassenno; Mundo Obrero: Carl Glenn, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Carlos Vargas; Internet: Janet Mayes

Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly except the first week of January by WW Publishers, 55 W. 17 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10011. Phone: (212) 627-2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$25; foreign and institutions: \$35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from University Microfilms International, 300 Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Send an e-mail message to wnwssubscribe@workersworld.net.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., 5th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10011.



NEW PAM PARKER CD RELEASE

R&B • WOMEN • BLUES

Imagine

Peace • Unionism • Social Justice

Jazz • Truth

by Pam Parker



Pam Parker

- I Wish I knew how it would feel to be free
- Mother's Day
- Bridge over troubled water
- We speak louder than machines
- Truck driving woman
- Hound Dog
- Congo Square
- Sophie's Theme
- What a wonderful world
- Bound for freedom
- Masters of war
- Imagine

\$15

Order from

www.Leftbooks.com

Guaranteed Holiday Delivery!! Make your order by Dec. 20th using express shipping and your order will arrive before Dec. 25th (continental U.S. delivery only).

Top row: left to right Steve Jones (Piano), Jobari Parker-Namdar (Vocals), Richard Miller (Guitar), and Herbert Scott (Saxophone)

Bottom row: left to right Scott Giambusso (Bass), Francis Thompson (Drums)
 *picture unavailable,

Guest Artists:
 Luci Murphy— Lead Vocals on MOTHER'S DAY,
 Ken Giles— 5 String Violin/Viola on MOTHER'S DAY and TRUCK DRIVING WOMAN
 Gantt Kushner— Guitar on HOUND DOG



JOIN US. Workers World Party (WWP) fights on all issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples—Black and white, Latino, Asian, Arab and Native peoples, women and men, young and old, lesbian, gay, bi, straight, trans, disabled, working, unemployed and students.

If you would like to know more about WWP, or to join us in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you.

National Office
 55 W. 17 St.,
 New York, N.Y. 10011
 (212) 627-2994;
 Fax (212) 675-7869
wwp@workers.org

Atlanta
 P.O. Box 424,
 Atlanta, Ga. 30301
 (404) 627-0815
atlanta@workers.org

Baltimore
 426 E. 31 St.,
 Baltimore, Md. 21218
 (410) 235-7040
baltimore@workers.org

Boston
 284 Armory St., Boston,
 Mass. 02130
 (617) 983-3835
 Fax (617) 983-3836
boston@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
 P.O. Box 1204
 Buffalo NY 14213
 (716) 566-1115
buffalo@workers.org

Chicago
 27 N. Wacker Dr. #138
 Chicago, Ill. 60606
 (773) 381-5839
 Fax (773) 761-9330
chicago@workers.org

Cleveland
 P.O. Box 5963
 Cleveland, OH 44101
 phone (216) 531-4004
cleveland@workers.org

Detroit
 5920 Second Ave.,
 Detroit, Mich. 48202
 (313) 831-0750
detroit@workers.org

Houston
 P.O. Box 130322,
 Houston, Texas 77219
 (713) 861-5965
houston@workers.org

Los Angeles
 5274 West Pico Blvd.,
 Suite 203
 Los Angeles, Calif. 90019
 (323) 936-1416
la@workers.org

Philadelphia
 P.O. Box 9202,
 Philadelphia, Pa. 19139
 (610) 453-0490
phila@workers.org

Richmond, Va.
 P.O. Box 14602,
 Richmond, Va. 23221
richmond@workers.org

Rochester, N.Y.
 (585) 436-6458
rochester@workers.org

San Diego, Calif.
 3930 Oregon St.,
 Suite 230
 San Diego, Calif. 92104
 (619) 692-4496

San Francisco
 2940 16th St., #207
 San Francisco,
 Calif. 94103
 (415) 561-9752
sf@workers.org

State College, Pa.
 100 Grandview Rd.,
 State College,
 Pa. 16801
 (814) 237-8695

Washington, D.C.
 P.O. Box 57300,
 Washington, DC 20037,
dc@workers.org

Native people struggle to save shellmounds

By Stephanie Hedgecok

Indigenous people of the California Bay Area recently held three events focused on the struggle to preserve their ancient burial grounds, the shellmounds, from real estate development. The events, called by Indian People Organizing for Change (IPOC) and the Vallejo Inter-Tribal Council's Indigenous Sacred Sites Preservation Committee, were held over a two-day period.

The events followed the Unthanksgiving Sunrise Ceremony at Alcatraz in the San Francisco Bay. The Sunrise Ceremony, held by the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC), is a long-running annual event commemorating the historic takeover of Alcatraz by the American Indian Movement (AIM) and traditionally brings together hundreds of Native people and their supporters.

On Friday, Nov. 26, IPOC called an all-day demonstration at the site of the Bay Street Mall, recently built atop the Emeryville Shellmound over the objections of Muwekma Ohlone people and their supporters. That shellmound was once 60 feet high and up to 600+ feet in diameter; it is older than the pyramids in Egypt and formerly held at least four historical levels of burial sites.

Some 100 demonstrators gathered and leafleted cars to ask people not to shop at the "Dead Mall." Muwekma Ohlone

activist and organizer Corrina Gould says: "We do this the day after Unthanksgiving even though the Shellmound, the land, has been desecrated by this strip mall. We give out educational material because it's a cemetery and ask people not to shop at the mall."

The history of the shellmound struggle encompasses the survival of Pacific Coastal peoples who have been twice colonized. Spain's conquistador army and priests built the mission system by forcibly rounding up and enslaving tens of thousands. Later, during the Gold Rush, the U.S. moved in to enforce its proclamation of Manifest Destiny, that it had a right to take the continent, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific.

The shellmounds in the San Francisco Bay Area represent cemeteries and ancient monuments of First Nations, including the Ohlones, Coast Miwok, Bay Miwok, Plains Miwok, Yokuts, Wappo, Patwin and several others.

Emeryville Shellmound's topmost layer of burial sites was razed to build a dance pavilion by European settlers in the 1800s. Its second layer was destroyed in 1924; the 900- to 1,300-year-old remains of some 700 people were taken by University of California Berkeley's Anthropology Department.

From 1924 to 1984 toxic wastes were dumped on the third layer. This layer was hauled away in hundreds of truckloads a

West Berkeley Shellmound site, also a focus of struggle.

PHOTO: AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY



day for 10 weeks in 2001 and incinerated at a toxic waste dump.

The remaining oldest layer contains uncounted human remains as much as 2,500 years old.

During the pile-driving stage of the mall's construction, hundreds of burials were exposed all over the 19-acre site and confirmed by archaeologists, but that did not stop the profit-hungry developers and their backers in local government from proceeding with construction.

After the demonstration in Emeryville, an open forum regarding the Glen Cove burial site was held at Calvary Community Church in Benicia by leaders of the Vallejo Inter-Tribal Council (VITC) and Native elders.

On Saturday morning, VITC called on the Indigenous community, peace and justice groups, and progressive religious organizations to attend a Citizen's Assembly to preserve the Glen Cove Shellmound, which faces potential destruction from real estate development. Sacred Sites Protection & Rights of Indigenous Tribes led the gathering on a 5-1/2 mile procession from the site of the Glen Cove Shell-

mound to the Vallejo Waterfront Park.

The procession included representatives of many of the area's Indigenous Nations. The Tule River Reservation, just south of Sequoia National Park in the Sierra Nevada mountains, sent an entire bus full of Yokuts, who explained that the Glen Cove site was a transitional area historically for at least seven Native Nations and that their own kin were among "this living shellmound." AIM representative Carole Standing Elk helped lead the procession with a joint IPOC/IITC banner reading: "Save the Shellmounds, Respect All Sacred Sites" and "You Can't Respect the Living Until You Respect the Dead."

For updates on future events write to IPOC, POB 796, Alameda, CA 94501; call the VITC at (707) 558-8776; or email the Shellmounder News at sfbayshellmounds@yahoo.com.

Information was gathered for this report by activists with the Shellmounder News and supporters of the Muwekma Ohlone Nation.

Quanell X case ends in people's victory

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

It was a people's victory on Nov. 15 in the racist state district court in Houston when the district attorney failed to convict New Black Panther Party activist Brother Quanell X of felony evading-arrest charges.

Last June Brother Quanell was taking a young African American man accused of shooting a police officer to the police station. The youth had been the subject of a 2-day manhunt and terror campaign against the Black community. He was afraid to turn himself in, so Brother Quanell offered to take him to the station and had worked out an arrangement with the police chief, who is African American.

Some white cops got wind of what was happening and entrapped Brother X as he was on his way to the police station.

A broad citywide coalition, People for Justice, was formed to support Brother Quanell. The courtroom was packed each day of the trial. Hundreds and hundreds turned out on the first day, forcing the

court to use concert-type roping to keep the crowd in a line. Overt racism and hostility dripped from both district attorneys and also the judge. DA Denise Nassar compared Brother Quanell to O.J. Simpson. Nassar's husband is a police homicide detective who had been looking for the suspect. The judge's father is the sheriff of Houston. There was only one African American on the jury.

After the victory, Minister Robert Muhammed of the Nation of Islam Mosque #45 said, "Everyone in Houston knew that Quanell was innocent and this trial lasting over a week was a waste of taxpayers' money."

After the trial, Brother Quanell, who was prohibited from talking to the media during the 6-month ordeal, invited the community and the media to a celebration at the New Black Panther Party office. Quanell spoke for the first time.

"This case was bigger than just me. They wanted to teach other leaders and me a lesson. Many Blacks and also white people knew that this was wrong. When the common whites see in the system what our

people have experienced for over 400 years, this country will be destroyed not from without but from within. My case was a small part of bringing about a realization of the corrupt criminal justice system.

"I wasn't afraid of going to jail. I would have gone in and organized the brothers and the Hispanics and even the whites in that jail. The system is now angry and frustrated. They want to get rid of brothers who are leaders and who stand up to the system. We're upsetting their world order. Two white jurors have called me and told me they knew I was innocent but there were two others that wouldn't listen to reason so that's why they compromised and convicted me of a misdemeanor one step above a traffic ticket.

"I thank all of you for your support and this is our victory."



WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

Quanell X gives award to Rena Simon, an organizer of People for Justice. In rear are Minister Robert Muhammed and Kofi Taharka.

We want freedom

Mumia Abu-Jamal provides the world with an important history of the founding of the Philadelphia Black Panther Party

\$13.99

Order from www.Leftbooks.com

Guaranteed Holiday Delivery!! Make your order by Dec. 20th using express shipping and your order will arrive before Dec. 25th (continental U.S. delivery only).



Support Mumia's release

Continued from page 2

WHEREAS Mumia Abu-Jamal's case is now on appeal before the federal Third Circuit and the state court system; and

WHEREAS Mumia Abu-Jamal has for decades as a journalist fought courageously against racism and for the human rights of all people; and

WHEREAS the continued unjust incarceration of Mumia Abu-Jamal represents a threat to the civil rights of all people,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Caucus of Black State

Legislators demands that the courts consider the evidence of innocence of Mumia Abu-Jamal and that he be released from prison; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NCBSL demands that Pennsylvania Gov. Edward Rendell instruct his Attorney General to take over the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal from the Philadelphia County District Attorney's office and actually pursue justice; namely, go to court, make a legal confession of error, and stipulate that the conviction be vacated;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NCBSL will communicate its views on this matter to Gov. Rendell, 225 Main Capitol Bldg., Harrisburg, PA 17120, and to the appropriate courts in consultation with the legal defense team of Mumia Abu-Jamal; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NCBSL will work with the legal defense team of Mumia Abu-Jamal to petition the courts to file any necessary friend of the court brief on behalf of Mumia Abu-Jamal. □

Prisoner describes Abu Ghraib-type conditions here

Following is a somewhat abridged letter from Eric "Man Shareef" Riddick, who is currently incarcerated at the State Correctional Institution at S.C.I.

Greene. This is the prison that trained Charles A. Grainer Jr., who has been unofficially identified as the ring leader of the goon squad charged in the Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal in Iraq. Riddick says he was transferred from S.C.I. Graterford to S.C.I. Greene on Oct. 24, 2001, where he was arbitrarily put in solitary confinement without being charged or convicted of any institutional infraction. He was told this was because he is an activist and organizer. Except for 27 days, Riddick has been in solitary confinement since Oct. 24, 2001, without being charged with any misconduct.

The terror that I write about is happening every day in the prisons of America! From beatings to psychological torture, from daily dehumanization, to the murders! This is common practice in U.S. prisons. The policy makers as well as their henchmen/women, the guards, have developed highly sophisticated methods of torture, humiliation and even murder.

This corroded mentality of administrative misconduct is not limited to personnel inside the prisons. They carry out the policies of abuse on a daily basis, free of worry because they know that their superiors are the source [and support] of the longstanding infamy. This is why on many occasions after the [guards] inflict their

abuse they [taunt] the inmates, saying, "Go ahead and file a grievance. We don't care." Or "Go ahead and write to the prison Regional Director."

Why isn't anyone pushing for a Senate hearing and/or resolution condemning the everyday terroristic torture inside American prisons?

The accusations I make are true. There are thousands of men and women that have been methodically driven insane. The record will confirm that 85 to 90 percent of inmates that now suffer from psychological problems, and are on all types of medications, were not in this condition when they entered prison.

The record will also reveal thousands upon thousands of ignored complaints of beatings, racial and religious profiling and discrimination, unjustified long term solitary confinement, which is one of the most effective methods of systematically [destroying] an inmate's sanity, as well as parole discrimination, just to name a few. There have been many murders of inmates committed by staff abuse in the U.S. prisons. The grievance outlets available to the inmates are a joke! They are designed to be defective and are an essential cohort in the cover-up.

Inmates are forced into situations where he or she has no choice but to defend himself or herself, physically and/or verbally. The administration then buries the inmate with institutional misconduct reports. The majority of these reports of misconduct are saturated with fallacies and half truths. This process is

used to create an image of the inmate that would justify long-term isolation. Also to beat the inmate or to use an electrical shock shield and pepper spray.

Solitary confinement is where the majority of the abuse and torture occur. There is a light in each cell that stays on 24 hours! All day, every day with no purpose other than to punitively deprive the inmate of substantial amounts of sleep. If an inmate manages to survive the light, he or she is systematically [tortured] by an air vent. The same guards control over the lights control the air vent, which blasts very cold air that comes out full force.

The ultimate weapon of psychological torture in solitary confinement is the use of inmate against inmate. This is mendaciously done by putting the inmates that have already been driven insane on the same cell block with inmates that are still trying to maintain their sanity. The inmates that have been driven insane bang on the doors and scream all day and all night long. The perpetual terrifying screams of broken souls are sounds that can't be explained.

In solitary confinement humiliating strip searches, where inmates are stripped naked, is an everyday thing. The medical service provided is highly unsafe. Then you have the barbaric cell extractions, where five large guards are dressed in full body armor equipped with sticks, high-power pepper spray, gas masks and one large electric shield that shoots 50 thousand plus volts of electricity. They run into the cell, use pepper spray, then shock the

inmate with the electrical shield, beat and hogtie [him/her] with leg irons and wrist irons and then remove [him/her] from the cell. The record will show that over 90 percent of these cell extractions don't require such force. However, when there is no monitoring of people in authority, this is what happens.

This is a subject that goes much deeper than what I have written. However, I hope that this brief writing will touch your humanity in a way that will compel you to investigate these various issues that are a major concern to the inmates. The people must get involved and seek authentic information outside of the governmental propaganda that is designed to sabotage real democratic thoughts.

I have been unjustly incarcerated for over a decade illegally, lynched by the notorious Pennsylvania judicial system for a crime that I did not commit. My situation is not the exception, but rather a norm among Black males in America. That is the worst form of torture, being in prison for a crime that you didn't commit.

For those who desire to get involved, write to the Human Rights Coalition at P.O. Box 9235, Philadelphia, PA 19129 or call (215) 578-7474. HRC is a movement that is dedicated to Human Rights. The movement is at its embryonic stage of development, but is gaining righteous momentum. HRC welcomes all suggestions.

Power to the people.
Your brother in struggle,
Brother Man Shareef

Aerospace profits soar as workers are cut

By Heather Cottin

War is good for the economy if you are a capitalist. If you are a worker, you face unemployment. The annual report by the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) on Dec. 8 shows that aerospace employment is at its lowest level in 50 years.

But profits are booming—at their highest levels in 85 years. Total sales this year surged by \$12 billion to \$161 billion, with profits running to \$10.1 billion. (Seattle Post Intelligencer, Dec. 9) Virtually all this growth is in military orders.

The industry is salivating at the prospect that sales will increase even more in 2005. AIA analysts predict a 7.5-percent increase to \$173 billion, with most

of that growth coming from military sales and demand for missiles and other weapon systems.

As the war in Iraq deepens and U.S. military adventurism burgeons from Latin America to Africa, Europe to the Middle East and Asia, the aerospace and "defense" industries are raking in the contracts. Military aircraft sales increased 15 percent, and missile sales jumped 10 percent, the AIA report said.

Meanwhile, the number of aerospace and defense industry jobs has declined just as rapidly as jobs in all industrial sectors. The mantra of "free trade" is echoed throughout the military industry. Cheaper labor means bigger profits. The U.S. defense industry now outsources at least

50 percent of its work, meaning many jobs not automated are going abroad. (American Economic Alert, Oct. 8, 2003) Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz in 2003 personally engineered a deal allowing the defense industry to drop the requirement that military production be done with U.S.-made machine tools.

Aerospace sales to the Pentagon are expected to rise 7 percent to \$76 billion next year from \$71 billion this year, and financing for research and development will approach \$80 billion.

"This is the second-best year in the industry both for absolute profits and for profits as a percentage of sales," AIA President and CEO John Douglass said. AIA is an influential trade group repre-

senting the heavyweights in aerospace, including Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, General Dynamics and Raytheon.

On Long Island, in California, in Washington State and other regions of the United States, workers who counted on the military industry to generate jobs are out of luck. Local economies are stagnating or worse, and corporate moguls have left the workers behind. It is just like the auto industry, just like the steel industry. The old factories are empty, and only Wal-Mart is hiring.

The war in Iraq has already cost \$150 billion. (costofwar.com) Much of that has gone to profit an industry "headed in the right direction," according to Douglass. This industry is generating few jobs but many weapons of mass destruction, the death of tens of thousands, and at least one major scandal—a corrupt \$23-billion deal between the Air Force and Boeing.

The Air Force's former top weapons buyer, Darleen Druyun, faces a 9-month prison term. Michael Sears, Boeing's former chief financial officer, has pleaded guilty in federal court to conflict of interest charges. Air Force Secretary James Roche and other administration officials remain under investigation.

Still Douglass crows, "This industry is one of the very brightest spots in the American economy."

Bright for those profiting from death, not for workers. Not for soldiers either. With all the billions poured into military industry coffers, U.S. soldiers in Iraq are prodigiously poorly protected. It's not profitable to protect the cannon fodder, it is only profitable to build expensive weapons systems. □



Youth march against sweatshops

About 100 people, mostly young women, marched from the Washington Square Arch to the former site of the Triangle Shirtwaist factory on Dec. 9. They were protesting sweatshop conditions at Wal-Mart and other low-wage corporations.

In 1911, 146 workers, most of them women immigrants, died in a fire at the Triangle factory because the bosses had locked the exit doors.



WWW.ILR.CORNELL.EDU/TRIANGLEFIRE LEFT, WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

Baseball owners scapegoat players on steroid issue

By Mike Gimbel

Sports is supposedly the one place where two individuals or two teams can compete on a "level playing field."

This contrived misperception is now being utilized by the big business media to attack individual sports performers, including top Black performers like Barry Bonds, who either have used or are charged with using "performance-enhancing" drugs.

Victor Conte Jr., owner of Bharat Aluminium (BALCO) and a steroid drug dealer facing a criminal indictment, went on ABC-TV's "20/20" on Dec. 3 to "confess" his sins. He is attempting to "cop a plea" and get a lesser sentence by becoming a government witness against players he claims he entrapped into taking drugs BALCO was dispensing, undoubtedly at a very good profit. ABC was willing to give Conte the airtime to name names and boost the network's ratings.

Sen. John McCain has threatened to yank the antitrust exemption of major league baseball (MLB) over the issue of

steroid use. This threat is completely hollow. McCain, a Republican, and Democratic Sen. Joe Lieberman co-chaired the Committee for the Liberation of Iraq to build support within Congress for the invasion of Iraq.

With tens of thousands of dead Iraqi civilians and thousands of U.S. soldiers dead or maimed in a war and occupation based on lies that McCain helped to promote, can anyone believe his "outrage" over this truly minor issue of steroid use?

George W. Bush is former owner of the Texas Rangers baseball team and one of McCain's strongest supporters. The owners of the MLB teams are some of the world's wealthiest people and Bush's staunchest supporters. McCain isn't about to attack his wealthy buddies by removing the antitrust exemption. This was simply a threat to the baseball players' union that this rightwing-dominated Congress would take measures to try to weaken or even bust the union by fully backing the owners, utilizing the steroid issue as their battering ram.

Sports under capitalism = profits

Sports, "amateur" or professional, is just as much an industry as auto, steel or Hollywood films. The players are used as commodities to increase the bottom line—profits.

Good sportsmanship is supposedly taught in college. But the colleges compete furiously to recruit—bribe—the best high school sports talent available. The competition for television money and for "donations" from wealthy alumni among "amateur" collegiate programs is as vicious as any in private sector industries—but they pay not a penny in salary to these college performers.

In order for many of these "amateur" performers to actually make a living in a team sport, they must be more than good enough to be signed to a contract by a professional team. The pressures on the player to get an edge, so as to be "a star" or just make the pro team, are enormous.

Even within the MLB owner cartel there is no "even playing field." George Steinbrenner, owner of the fabulously profit-

able New York Yankees, has more money available to sign the best players because the Yankees dominate the baseball market.

Competition among baseball owners

Every year he virtually outbids his opponents—other wealthy baseball owners of less marketable teams. Thus, when a player becomes too "expensive" for the other teams, Steinbrenner can offer a more lucrative contract, knowing that he'll more than make up for this expense due to the Yankees' storied reputation.

Baseball, perhaps more than any other professional sport, has even celebrated those who have successfully cheated. Famed baseball manager Leo Durocher bragged openly about how he and his team cheated. Yet he is almost canonized for these acts.

Long after the "spitball" was banned, it continues to be used by desperate pitchers trying to "hang on" to their declining careers, as well as many other methods to

Continued on page 8

As Democrats fail the state

FIST organizes in West Virginia

By David Hoskins
Charleston, W. Va.

West Virginians are switching political parties in increasing numbers. What used to be a stronghold for the Democratic Party has now gone twice for George W. Bush. In the 2004 election, Bush trumped his Democratic challenger, John Kerry, by 13 percentage points. In addition, Republicans picked up two statewide offices and made inroads in the State Senate.

The Democrats are in crisis mode. State party chair Nick Casey has decided that, instead of standing up for working people, the electoral solution for Democrats lies in mimicking the reactionary social policies of the Republican Party.

Democrats have dominated the state legislature, the governorship and statewide offices for decades. Yet during that time the Democrats oversaw decades of human suffering, with high unemployment and poverty and poor educational opportunities and healthcare for the state's workers.

A quick perusal of any search engine will turn up the failures of Democratic rule. West Virginia ranks close to the bottom of child poverty ratings, with almost 27 percent of its children living below the poverty line. When this number is broken down by county, the disparity becomes even more obvious. Eleven counties have child poverty rates above 30 percent.

A few counties' rates approximate those in underdeveloped capitalist nations. McDowell County has a child poverty rate of over 52 percent and Webster County's rate exceeds 45 percent. The healthcare and education sectors fare no better. Over 70 percent of fourth graders perform below average math and reading levels and 43,000 children in West Virginia lack health insurance.

West Virginians are right to reject the Democratic Party and its years of broken promises. Democrats offer no solutions for the poor children of McDowell and Webster counties. The answer to their legitimate grievances, however, is not to be found in the Republican Party. In fact,

Republicans are likely to exacerbate the problem by pursuing a program of tax cuts for wealthy out-of-state corporations combined with cuts in social welfare spending for the state's residents.

This is no solution for the dispossessed of Appalachia. The answer for the working class of West Virginia is a social revolution that overthrows capitalist property relations and replaces the corporate state with a revolutionary workers' democracy.

With this goal in mind, students at West Virginia State University have taken the first concrete step toward mobilizing this state's youth and working people. The first meeting of FIST—Fight Imperialism,

Stand Together—took place on Dec. 7. Students rallied around an agenda that incorporated the struggles at home and abroad into a single rallying cry against U.S. imperialism. Student speakers discussed the anti-war struggle, the struggles in Haiti and Palestine, and the fight of coal miners and the United Mine Workers at the Cannelton mines. Two coal miners attended the meeting and discussed their struggle and ways in which students can participate.

Word spread and the organization began to grow even before the first meeting as students were forced to fight back against a school administration that

harassed key activists and vandalized FIST fliers. As in any struggle, the fight-back shifted the consciousness of those involved, as student organizers worked overtime to deal with a flood of interest on the campus.

What may seem like a small victory has had real repercussions on the WVSU campus. Student activists are not satisfied, either. They have made a commitment to return next semester ready to fight both for themselves and for the workers and poor children of Appalachia. This is only the first step in the struggle for justice in West Virginia. □



Trans people of color form political group

By LeiLani Dowell
New York

A historic celebration Dec. 9 launched the first project by and for trans and gender non-conforming people of color in New York. TransJustice, a project of the Audre Lorde Project (ALP), was launched at a standing-room-only event at ALP's offices in Brooklyn.

TransJustice describes itself as "a political group created by and for trans and gender non-conforming people of color. We work to mobilize our communities and allies to action on the pressing political issues we face. These issues include gaining access to jobs, housing and education; the need for trans-sensitive healthcare, HIV-related services and job-training programs; resisting police, government and anti-immigration violence."

Imani Henry, director of the TransJustice project, told the group, "This meeting is a demonstration about the living and breathing and struggle-oriented nature of trans people of color, from Stonewall to our sisters who founded STAR [Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries] to

every trans-led initiative that has gone before us."

The event featured speakers—all trans or gender non-conforming people of color, all activists—discussing their work and the continued struggle for trans people with regard to immigration, housing and jobs, and youth issues.

Debanuj Dasgupta of the Queer Immigrants Rights Project (QIR) discussed the myriad challenges LGBT people face towards immigration, including a 12- to 14-year waiting list for green cards for asylum. Dasgupta said, "As immigrants, we are displaced, we're used for cheap labor, and we're not even given housing. ... In the long term, QIR wants a complete overhaul of the INS." Dasgupta described the assault on immigrants as another facet of U.S. imperialism.

Barbara Cassis of Housing Works stressed the need for more services for homeless trans people. Cassis works with an 18-month transitional housing program that has successfully kept all its clients off the street. Regina Shavers, executive director of the Griot Circle—a lesbian, gay, bi and transgender senior

organization—said there are no housing services for female-to-male seniors, adding, "If you think you have problems with housing now, wait until you're 63."

Bran Fenner of Fabulous Independent Educated Radicals for Community Empowerment discussed how FIERCE was formed to fill a void around struggle for trans and queer youth of color. One of FIERCE's longest-standing campaigns is against the so-called "quality of life" campaigns in New York City that are really a way of pushing queer youth of color off the piers and out of the Lower East Side.

Other speakers included Kris Hayashi, executive director of the Audre Lorde Project; Kim Watson, associate coordinator of the Trans Program at Bronx's Community Health Care Network; Gael Guevara of the Sylvia Rivera Law Project and Queers for Peace and Justice; and Adam Okoye, a student at Harvey Milk High School and an organizer with the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network.

The event closed with a number of stunning performances in celebration of the project and the community. □

GI dissent shakes up the Pentagon

By John Catalinotto
New York

A series of events in early December signaled a major shift in political consciousness within the U.S. Armed Forces. Together they struck fear in the hearts of the general staff.

A sailor, a soldier, a Marine, and two National Guard soldiers committed acts of courage. They killed no Iraqis, nor did they rescue wounded comrades under fire. This kind of courage took a different form for each GI, from refusing to kill to confronting the unpopular secretary of defense.

Just say 'no'

Petty Officer Third Class Pablo Paredes had received orders to ship out on the USS Bonhomme Richard and carry 3,000 Marines to Iraq. On a pier in San Diego on Dec. 6, Paredes said "no" to these orders.

Paredes, who grew up in the Bronx borough of New York City, knew he would be pretty safe stationed on the ship. He knew he would probably go to prison for refusing. But he also knew at least 100 of the 3,000 Marines wouldn't come back. And he objected to the unjustified loss of human life in Iraq.

In 2000, Paredes had signed up at age 17 for a six-year stint in the Navy. Now, as he refused his orders, he said, "I'd rather do military prison time than 6 months of dirty work for a war that I and many others do not support. War should be an absolute last resort and even then must be considered thoroughly."

His immigrant family and his wife are 100-percent behind him. Paredes has his own web site where readers can find his position in full.

(SwiftSmartVeterans.com)

Three hundred people cheered and applauded Victor Paredes when he spoke



WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

Victor Paredes, brother of Seaman Pablo Paredes, who is refusing to report to Iraq.

of his brother's determination to refuse to go to Iraq on Dec. 11 at an anti-war meeting of veterans' groups and military families in New York. The Navy backed off from arresting Paredes on Dec. 6 with media present. Now, charged with desertion, he is arranging his legal defense to prepare for turning himself in.

Asylum in Canada

Army Pfc. Jeremy Hinzman faced Canada's Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) in Toronto for an asylum hearing the same week. He had left Ft. Bragg, N.C., months before when his paratrooper unit in the 82nd Airborne Division was ordered to Iraq. For Hinzman, the war in Iraq is illegal, and if he participates he will be a war criminal.

The young paratrooper believes he deserves no punishment for taking this stand. "Serving even one day in prison for refusing to comply with an illegal order is too long."

Hinzman had said on CBS' "60 Minutes" program, "I was told in basic training that if I'm given an illegal or immoral order, it is my duty to disobey it, and I feel that invading and occupying Iraq is an illegal and immoral thing to do."

Hinzman is in Toronto with his Vietnamese-born wife and 2-year-old son. He is the first in court of three U.S. troops now in Canada who are publicly appealing for official asylum. The Canadian government, which has refused to join the "coalition of the willing" in Iraq, is under pressure from Washington to reject U.S. military resisters.

Presiding IRB member Brian Goodman says the legality or illegality of the war will not be an issue in his ruling, to be made by February 2005. It will be based, said Goodman, only on whether Hinzman has a reasonable fear of persecution for his religious or political beliefs, or faces the risk of cruel and unusual punishment if he returns to the U.S.

Confession of war crimes

Despite Goodman's statement, Hinzman made a strong political case. Marine Staff Sgt. Jimmy Massey, a 12-year veteran, was at the Toronto hearing Dec. 8 testifying on Hinzman's behalf. Massey, who spent three months in Iraq, told how his unit—the 7th Marines weapons company—killed more than 30 Iraqi civilians in one 48-hour period at a checkpoint in the Rashid neighborhood in southern Baghdad.

"I know in my heart that these vehicles that came up, that they were civilians," he said. "But I had to act on my orders. It's a struggle within my heart." He said that Hinzman would likely be forced to commit atrocities that violate the Geneva Conventions if he goes to Iraq.

A large majority of Canadians and Quebecois oppose the war on Iraq. In addition,

there are over 30,000 former U.S. citizens who took asylum in Canada during the Vietnam War who side with Hinzman, including Hinzman's attorney, Jeffrey House. (SoldierSayNo.org)

'Shock and awe' for Rumsfeld

Spec. Thomas Wilson is with the 278th Regimental Combat Team, composed mainly of members of the Tennessee Army National Guard. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld spoke to 2,300 of these Guard members in a hangar in Kuwait before television cameras.

Rumsfeld asked the troops to pose some "tough questions." He must have expected them to remain humble before his authority. Instead of being held in awe, Rumsfeld got shocked.

Wilson brought up the unarmored Humvees that the resistance regularly blows up in Iraq. He asked Rumsfeld why do "we soldiers have to dig through local landfills for pieces of scrap metal and compromised ballistic glass to up-armor our vehicles?"

The 2,300 troops applauded and cheered him. Rumsfeld looked stunned. His quick answer failed to hide his indifference toward the fate of the ordinary GIs: "You go to war with the Army you have," blustered the Pentagon boss. "They're not the Army you might want or wish to have at a later time."

He looked like he wished he had an army of robots. Rumsfeld hustled off to his armored car and left. His answer to the troops became the butt of late-night comedy routines. It was another nail in the coffin of the Rumsfeld Doctrine that planned for a cost-effective, high-tech world conquest.

The defense secretary was the architect of the war. He had rushed into it prepared only for a quick, brutal victory over Iraq. Along with the neocons in the

Despite U.S. bombs and napalm, Iraq resists

Continued from page 1

olution when Iraqis liberated their nation and resources from British imperialism.

Easier said than done

But while today's U.S. imperialists may hope that phony elections and faux sovereignty will facilitate "business-as-usual" neocolonial exploitation, Pentagon military officials admit they need more troops.

The brass has announced they will boost the number of GIs from 138,000 to about 150,000 by mid-July. That's more U.S. boots than hit the ground at the time of the U.S. invasion in 2003. The troop increase will be manipulated by extending the tours of duty of more than 10,000 GIs set to go home in January.

In an hour-long interview with the Associated Press on Dec. 13, U.S. Sen. John McCain declared he has "no confidence" in Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld—because McCain thinks he hasn't sent enough troops.

McCain argued for an additional deployment of at least 80,000 more Army personnel and 20,000 to 30,000 more Marines. He is a senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, the powerful body that oversees military operations and has influence over the Pentagon budget.

Nick Childs, BBC correspondent at the Pentagon, notes that this latest political broadside against Rumsfeld has rekindled the controversy ignited when Rumsfeld faced decidedly unfriendly verbal fire from

GIs at a U.S. base in Kuwait a week earlier.

Childs explains that, "[T]hese latest political rumblings reflect renewed worries in Washington about the effectiveness of the overall U.S. policy in Iraq."

Who's calling who a war criminal?

Allawi has announced that senior members of the former government—who, unlike him, were elected to office in a sovereign nation—may soon face "war crimes" trials.

Several of these prisoners of war have reportedly carried out a hunger strike to protest their illegal detention and lack of legal representation and to demand a visit by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Arif Badia, attorney for former deputy prime minister Tariq Aziz, said he has received information that most of the 55 imprisoned Baath Party officials were refusing food. Badia added, "They heard that they are going to be handed over after the elections to an Iraqi government they will not recognize." (aljazeera.net, Dec. 14)

From Jordan, attorneys for captured former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein argued that he is being held illegally by occupation forces. "It was more of a forced abduction that later became compulsory concealment and solitary confinement, acts rejected by all international conventions," the legal team argued in a statement released Dec. 12.

The lawyers have not been allowed to

contact their client, nor to represent him at his July 1 Baghdad preliminary arraignment.

The U.S. is determined to impose a literal gag order to keep Saddam Hussein and Baathist deputies from being able to do what former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic has done at The Hague: turn the tribunals into a political indictment of the real war criminals.

Charges U.S. used napalm

Eyewitnesses in Falluja charge that U.S. forces illegally dropped napalm in and around Falluja during their recent siege. Napalm is a weapon of mass destruction banned by the UN in 1980. (aljazeera.net, Nov. 21)

According to a British source, "Reports of 'melted' dead bodies are emerging from Falluja, prompting Labour MP Alice Mahon to demand a Commons statement from Tony Blair clarifying the position regarding napalm and unconventional weapons. ...

"Pentagon officials have tried to avoid describing the bombs used in Iraq as napalm. They claim the technology has been refined to cause less environmental damage. ... John Pike, director of the military studies group GlobalSecurity.Org, said: 'You can call it something other than napalm but it is still napalm. It has been reformulated in the sense that they now use a different petroleum distillate, but that is it. The U.S. is the only country that has used napalm for a long time.'" (Black

Information Link—blink.org.uk)

But it is not just the violations of international law that constitute U.S. war crimes—it is imperialist war for empire itself that is a crime.

Washington warlords manufactured blatant pretexts for their invasion of Iraq. A CIA official of Middle Eastern descent who worked as an agent for 23 years is suing the agency for firing him after he resisted pressure by senior officials to falsify intelligence that Iraq had an arsenal of weapons of mass destruction. (AFP, Dec. 10)

The occupation is a crime. It has destroyed schools and homes, ushered in widespread unemployment and a catastrophic health care crisis. And since the 2003 invasion, an estimated 100,000 Iraqis have been killed, many while resisting this terrible crime.

It's also a crime that cities in the U.S. are being starved to feed the war machine. Both parties in Congress voted for the \$151.1 billion war chest for Iraq. That amount could provide health care for 82 million children in the U.S. or for more than 27 million uninsured adults.

According to a report by the Institute for Policy Studies, it also "could have cut world hunger in half and covered HIV/AIDS medicine, childhood immunization and clean water and sanitation needs of the developing world for more than two years." □

Military recruiters set back on campus

By LeiLani Dowell

Bush administration and the bulk of the U.S. ruling class, Rumsfeld had completely underestimated the courage and determination of the Iraqi people to fight for their sovereignty.

The Bush administration tried to spin Rumsfeld's televised disaster to show that the troops were pro-war but wanted the best weapons. Bush said he agreed with the troops' desire for armor.

Yet the clash was in an imperialist army, not a debating society. Troops are forbidden to sass their lieutenant, let alone embarrass the Pentagon CEO. The Kuwait meeting with Rumsfeld was supposed to be a pro-war public relations ploy. It turned instead into an exercise in insubordination in a war zone.

Sue the *#%*#@&\$

National Guard Spec. David Qualls from Arkansas went beyond questioning the Pentagon brass. On Dec. 6, Qualls and seven still unnamed U.S. soldiers sued the government to challenge its "stop loss" policy that has forced thousands of soldiers to remain in the military beyond their scheduled retirement.

Qualls had been in Iraq since last March, in a combat zone north of Baghdad. After five years of active duty, Qualls had signed up for a one-year stint in the Guard. His year was up, but the military forced an extension on him.

The court ruled against Qualls' request for a restraining order to stop him from being sent back. As of Dec. 14, Qualls was in a hospital in Arkansas, suffering from distress. According to media reports, he fears retribution from the military in Iraq.

The Pentagon generals can still intimidate the troops, but they have shown signs of their own fear. They recently decided to use only non-judicial Article 15s to punish the 23 members of the 343rd Quartermaster Company who refused to drive their unarmored trucks on what they considered a "suicide mission" across Iraq last October.

The punishments for Article 15s are loss of rank and pay, but no jail time and no loss of honorable discharge. If the Pentagon brass wanted to avoid court-martialing these troops, it's because they feared a

Continued on page 8

On Nov. 29, an appeals court in Philadelphia ruled that a federal law denying funding to schools that hinder military recruitment efforts on campus is a violation of the schools' First Amendment rights.

The Solomon Amendment, passed in 1996, denies funding to schools that prohibit or prevent military recruiting, operation of Reserve Office Training Corps (ROTC) programs on campus, or access by military recruiters to students' records and contact information.

In 2003 the Forum for Academic and Institutional Rights (FAIR), a group that includes 25 law schools and law faculties, filed the lawsuit that was just ruled on. FAIR includes the Society of American Law Teachers, a group representing some 900 law professors.

According to the Boston Globe, the Solomon Amendment was only loosely enforced until 2002, when the Pentagon told at least 12 schools they would have to "give military recruiters equal treatment" or face losing much of their federal

research funding. Because of these threats, many schools—including Harvard, Yale and Boston College—dropped their previous bans on military recruiting.

While the struggle against military recruiters and ROTC programs has been waged on campuses all across the country by students, teachers and activists, the lawsuit focused on law schools because all accredited law schools are required by the group that accredits them to have a nondiscrimination policy that includes sexual orientation. The lawsuit challenged the Solomon Amendment because the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy that bars lesbians and gays from serving openly in the military directly refutes these schools' nondiscrimination policies.

This victory for antiwar as well as LGBT activists is a step up in the struggle to stop the recruiting of youth into the military machine by lies and flashy campaigns. Activists in schools across the country will no doubt use the added

strength of the appeals court ruling to force school administrations to kick recruiters and ROTC programs off their campuses once and for all.

One has only to look at the disproportionate numbers of people of color on the front lines of war, the staggering amount of sexual abuse committed with impunity within the ranks of the military, and the "don't ask, don't tell" policy to see the overt racism, sexism and bigotry of the U.S. military. These issues within the military are endemic to an entity that brings nothing but violence, death and destruction the world over, for nothing other than the profits of big business and corporations.

While the "don't ask, don't tell" policy is horribly bigoted, and masks the violence that many gays and lesbians face in the military even before being sent off to war, it is the military in its entirety that needs to go, not just the policy. Youth are fighting in their schools, in the courtroom and on the streets so that nobody will have to take part in imperialist plunder.



In Philadelphia, protesters blamed the war for soaring utility costs.

WW PHOTO: BERTA JOUBERT-CECI

Demonstration at New York's Rockefeller Center.

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

'Stop the War Week' hits streets & malls

PHILADELPHIA, DEC. 10

Chanting "SEPTA, PGW, City Hall—Stop the war and fund them all," protesters marched through rainy rush-hour streets, receiving cheers from workers and shoppers. Organized by the Philadelphia Million Worker March Committee, the International Human Rights Day protest emphasized how the war in Iraq also impacts communities in the U.S.

The demonstration started at Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW), where heating bills have increased 75 percent over the last four years. Families who cannot pay are in danger of freezing to death. The state will now allow utility companies to shut off services, no matter how cold it gets. The MWM Committee announced that an Emergency Shutoff Prevention Team is being formed, and a number of people signed up as volunteers.

"All the resources of the country are being put into this war and are not being put into our cities. It's the poor people who are suffering," said Michael Berg, whose

son Nicholas was killed in Iraq last May.

Protesters then marched to SEPTA (Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority). Philadelphia's bus, trolley and train services are being drastically curtailed, resulting in 1,400 layoffs plus a 50-percent increase in fares to \$3, the highest in the country. Officials blame inadequate federal and state subsidies.

SEIU Local 668 President Ray Martinez explained, "Most of the people using SEPTA are working-class people; people who earn very little; people who are unemployed, employed or are students. Philadelphia even charges students to get to school." Speakers pointed out that minimum-wage workers will need to work almost two hours just to pay for getting to work and back home. Several speakers called for some form of fare strike, drawing much applause.

The last stop was City Hall, where the city administration plans to eliminate up to 2,600 jobs, impacting services from snow removal, healthcare and libraries to

garbage collection and fire fighting. Marchers arrived at City Hall as a snowboarding exhibition was taking place, featuring a U.S. Army recruiting tent. Demonstrators chanted, "Money for jobs and education, not war and occupation!"

—Joe Piette

NEW YORK, DEC. 11

On Saturdays in December, Rockefeller Center in midtown Manhattan is packed with shoppers and tourists. That's why the International Action Center held a picket line and speak-out just down 5th Avenue from that citadel of U.S. capitalism.

Anti-war activists picketed, demanding "Bring the troops home now!" The most common chant was "End the war, end the occupation, money for jobs and education."

Some passersby were heartened to see antiwar demonstrators after Bush's electoral victory. They signed up for more information and made donations for upcoming demonstrations.

After the picket line ended, many marched over to a demonstration at the United Nations called by the Jericho Movement demanding the liberation of all political prisoners.

—G. Dunkel

CLEVELAND, DEC. 11

Despite wind, cold and snow, anti-war activists protested in Cleveland. The Northeast Ohio Antiwar Coalition called the march and rally.

The rally featured a moving talk by Chad Saloman, who just returned from Iraq and is already a member of Iraq Veterans Against the War.

After the march, demonstrators moved inside the downtown Tower City shopping mall. They wore large anti-war stickers on their clothing to counter the "no signs" rule. They reached hundreds of shoppers with messages like "No war for empire!" before being escorted out of the premises.

—Martha Grevatt

Who will decide Puerto Rico's election results?

By Tom Soto
San Juan, P.R.

A month after elections were held in this island nation of 4 million—which has been a U.S. colony since 1898—there is still no official winner in the gubernatorial race.

The reason: A federal judge, Daniel Dominguez, has taken over control of the electoral process and overruled a decision by the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico which had instructed the Elections Commission to “count and adjudicate” all the votes in this past November’s election—including thousands of contested crossover votes made by “independentistas” (supporters of the independence) who voted for Anibal Acevedo Vilá of the Popular Democratic Party.

The action of Federal Judge Dominguez in assuming jurisdiction of the electoral process, after the opposing New Progressive Party challenged the independentista ballots and initiated a suit in the local federal court, is broadly viewed by large sections of Puerto Rican society as an open colonial insult.

On Nov. 3 the Election Commission had preliminarily certified Anibal Acevedo Vilá as the winner in the gubernatorial race, with 48.38 percent of the vote. His

contender, Pedro Roselló of the pro-statehood New Progressive Party, received 48.18 percent of the vote.

The difference between the two bourgeois candidates was about 3,800 votes. So the crossover independentista vote has become crucial. Thirty percent of the eligible voters in Puerto Rico did not participate.

The Popular Democratic Party and the New Progressive Party are the two bourgeois parties that have historically administered the colonial government of Puerto Rico on behalf of U.S. interests.

A third electoral force is the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP). As a result of thousands of its supporters crossing over and voting for the gubernatorial candidate of the Popular Democratic Party, the PIP did not receive the 5 percent of the vote required to maintain its official electoral status, though PIP members were elected to the House and Senate of the Puerto Rican Legislature.

Usually capitalist political factions who administer the government concede to one another after an election result, even if the outcome is close. They are keenly aware that no matter which bourgeois party gets to administer the state, capitalism and private property go on as usual.

But the election of November was particularly sharp and divided, especially due to the participation of Pedro Roselló of the New Progressive Party. As two-term governor from 1993 to 2000, he led the most corrupt administration in the history of Puerto Rico, emptying the coffers of the treasury. He now is pushing ahead with a new plan to impose statehood.

At issue in the current electoral crisis is whether, within the context of a colonial capitalist democracy, the independentista vote will be counted and adjudicated or disenfranchised altogether, thus allowing the colonial governor to be literally hand-picked by a federal judge. However, the political crisis also seems to reflect new emerging economic relations between the U.S. and other countries in Latin America.

In an earlier historical period Puerto Rico was a center of continuing U.S. investment, which stimulated economic growth on the island, though distorted and owned by foreigners.

But in recent years the United States has made a number of so-called free trade agreements—the Latin American Free Trade Area (ALCA) and the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA)—that allow U.S. economic penetration and exploitation of so-called cheap labor mar-

kets in Mexico, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and elsewhere.

Beyond a doubt, capital will flow to the areas where the rate of profit is highest. How this emerging economic situation affects the Puerto Rican economy, which is U.S.-owned, remains to be seen, but it is certain that many U.S. corporations will pick up and leave for more profitable areas if these so-called free trade agreements are consummated.

As of the beginning of 2004, total Puerto Rican government debt, including municipalities and so-called public corporations, was \$32.3 billion—in a small island nation where 53 percent of the population lives below the established U.S. poverty level, 77 percent of the women are heads of households, and an average 50 percent of all salaries are committed to pay for personal debt.

During moments of election rhetoric, the candidate of the Popular Democratic Party spoke of the “need for more autonomy and the right of Puerto Rico to carry out its own economic agreements,” but he was simply electioneering.

While the Popular Democratic Party has appealed the decision of Judge Dominguez to the Federal Appeals Court in Boston, many workers, students, independentistas and socialists have taken to the streets.

The current political crisis could become a clarion call to struggle. On Monday, Nov. 29, at 10 in the morning during working hours, a demonstration of 5,000 was held near the Federal Courthouse in San Juan. Demonstrators demanded that the federal court respect the supremacy of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico regarding counting and adjudicating all the votes.

On Friday, Dec. 10, youth organizations of the Socialist Front—which during the election had advocated that “No candidate deserves your vote”—clashed with police in front of the Federal Court under the slogan: “No to colonialism, Federal courts out of Puerto Rico!” □

Antiwar professor speaks in U.S.

By Arturo J. Pérez Saad

Audiences in New York and Philadelphia have had the opportunity to hear about the antiwar struggles of Dr. Héctor Rosario Rivera, assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Puerto Rico in Mayagüez.

Rosario was suspended by the university administration for six months, beginning Sept. 2, because of his activism against the ROTC and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He then declared a hunger strike on Sept. 27 in front of the Capitol in San Juan. He demanded justice for his students by being reinstated to his post and justice for those who fight against the military machine.

Because of public support and student solidarity actions at several university

units, including complete lockouts at three campuses of the UPR system, his suspension was reduced to 4 months. He ended his hunger strike on Oct. 8, 15 pounds thinner, after a group of friends, family members and comrades wrote him a letter asking him to change tactics. Rosario is currently on his third month of suspension.

Rosario is a leader of the Socialist Front in Mayagüez and has worked with the Anti-Militarist Initiative and the University Front for Demilitarization and Education (FUDE), which last year rescued a university structure from the ROTC. Those actions led Mother Jones magazine to rank the UPR in Mayagüez as the most activist campus in the U.S. and its territories.

Rosario had received his Ph.D. from

Columbia University in 2003 and prior to that was an instructor at City College. He was also a high school teacher in Manhattan for two years.

In the year 2000, while still a graduate student, he participated in civil disobedience at a baseball game at Yankee Stadium in May; a hunger strike in front of the White House in June; and in the symbolic takeover of the statue of liberty with “Tito Kayak” in November. All these actions demanded the immediate withdrawal of the U.S. Navy from Vieques, a small island in Puerto Rico. □

Owners scapegoat players

Continued from page 5

“scuff the ball” to get an advantage.

Even in college softball, every team seeks an advantage by using scientifically tested and produced bats that can drive the ball further.

The same is true in golf, a sport mainly for business people and the upper middle class. New, scientifically created golf clubs are just too expensive for many middle class golfers’ pocketbooks. These golf clubs can drive the ball further and with more accuracy, placing the less wealthy golfers at an immediate disadvantage.

Socialism and sports

The real problem in U.S. sports is capitalism, not steroids. As long as sports are big business, cheating will not only be present, it will be encouraged by team owners, who want success on the field to make profits. If a player is exposed for cheating, it will be the player who “takes the fall,” not the wealthy team owner.

Only socialism can create the possibil-

ity of a “level playing field” by taking away the profit motive. Professional sports, like all other entertainment industries, will still exist. Sports performers, after all, are workers in a valuable entertainment industry.

Under socialism there will be no private owners skimming the profits produced by workers or dangling huge contracts to “star players” in order to improve their business’ competitive edge vs. their rivals’ owners.

Under socialism you won’t have corporate interests coercing entire city governments into building stadiums instead of building schools or hospitals, under the threat of taking their teams elsewhere.

Under socialism there won’t be parasitic businesses like BALCO that make profits by offering “magic bullets” to make athletes run faster, jump higher or get bigger and stronger.

Let’s put sports on a “level playing field” in the only way it can be done—by making a socialist revolution! □

GI dissent shakes up the Pentagon

Continued from page 7

massive rush of support for what under different circumstances the officers might call “mutiny.”

Support from anti-war movement

People active in GI organizing in 1968 would probably agree that the mood among the troops now is even more anti-war than it was then. All the symptoms of big problems in the military are there.

The Pentagon reports 5,500 deserters. Only 50 percent of troops are re-enlisting. As many as one-third of the Inactive Reserve, called now to unexpected duty, are failing to show up. Even the news that Iraqi war veterans are already beginning to show up among the homeless, many suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, is a reminder of the Vietnam days.

The International Action Center (IAC), with the youth group FIST and the GI support group SNAFU, on Dec. 4 devoted an afternoon session to GI organizing and support work. The 300 mostly young people present were enthusiastic both about stopping any draft and about supporting

GIs and anti-war veterans.

On Dec. 11 a similar sized but somewhat older gathering pulled together by Veterans for Peace, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Military Families Speak Out and others spent over three hours on the problems and conflicts of anti-war GIs and veterans during the current occupation of Iraq.

Master Sgt. Stan Goff, a Special Ops veteran and anti-war activist, told the Dec. 11 crowd that it was time to “delegitimize, disobey and disrupt” the military. (BringThemHomeNow.org)

Tom Barton, who has been publishing the web newsletter GI Special for over a year, read aloud letters from troops in Iraq who have been pasting up anti-war stickers on battle ruins. (militaryproject.org)

Dustin Langley of SNAFU reported his group’s web site had recently doubled its “hits,” and repeated his message to resisting GIs and civilian supporters: “We’ve got to show the troops we have their back.” (join-snafu.org)

Catalinotto was an organizer with the American Servicemen’s Union from 1967-1970.

Oppose NAFTA, immigrant bashing and war

Cuban unionists meet with U.S. & Mexican workers

By Sako Sefiani
Tijuana, Mexico

After repeatedly being denied U.S. visas, five leaders of the Confederation of Cuban Workers (CTC) traveled to Tijuana, Mexico, just south of California, to meet with trade unionists from the U.S. and Mexico on Dec. 10-12. They discussed issues affecting workers of all the Americas, such as immigration, the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA) and U.S.-Cuba relations.

U.S. and Mexican trade unionists and community activists heard first-hand from Cuban labor leaders and were able to discuss issues affecting workers on both sides of the U.S.-Mexican border, such as the maquiladora factories and immigration policies.

Leonel Gonzalez Gonzalez, head of the Cuban delegation, provided data on how the FTAA and neoliberal policies have contributed to poverty throughout Latin America while accelerating the transfer of wealth from the South to the North—\$29 billion in 2003 alone. Four billionaires in the U.S. now have a fortune equal to the annual budget of 42 nations combined, with an aggregate population of 600 million people, he said.

While 70 percent of Coca-Cola sales and more than 50 percent of the 23,000 McDonalds restaurants are outside the U.S., U.S. corporations still need more markets for their products. Mexico, to use just one example, has turned from an exporter of corn to an importer of corn from the U.S. Does anyone really believe, Gonzalez asked, that the U.S. will open its doors to Latin American products?

But neoliberal policies hurt U.S. workers, too, he cautioned. When U.S. transnational corporations set up maquiladoras in special zones on the border to take advantage of cheap labor, U.S. workers lose jobs. Cuba, he added, has been playing a key role

in the struggle against neoliberal policies.

Jose Antonio Almazan Gonzalez of Mexico's Electrical Workers Union (SME) summed up the results of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) after 10 years: poverty for 50 percent of the people in Latin America, with 25 percent in extreme poverty and 90 percent living on less than \$8 a day. Farming, he said, has been ruined. Mexico's foreign debt stands at \$276 billion; the yearly interest alone is \$28 billion. The SME is central to the current fight to stop the privatization of electricity and oil and dangerous revisions of the Mexican labor law proposed by the Vicente Fox government.

"This is imperialism," he said. "We must talk about an alternative for Latin America to counter this devastation. We must accomplish what the Venezuelans have accomplished."

Manuel Montero Bistilleiro, director of the Department of Foreign Relations of the CTC, told how the U.S. economic embargo and naval blockade have affected the Cuban economy and people. Cuba cannot get raw materials for its industries, medical supplies, any of the new generation of antibiotics, leukemia medication, pacemakers, spare parts for dialysis for children, or cancer treatment medicine produced in the U.S. In 1980, Montero added, the CIA, as part of biological warfare against Cuba, spread the dengue virus and then prevented Cuba from getting medication for it. As a result, 150 people died.

In 2003, said Montero, the U.S. dedicated \$59 million to destabilizing the government of Cuba. Another \$23 million was given to nongovernmental organizations for the same purpose. But when Cuba reacted by arresting these mercenaries, the U.S. cried foul.

Montero admonished labor leaders in the U.S., specifically the AFL-CIO, not to align themselves with the profiteers of finance capital against the workers of



WW PHOTO: GLORIA VERDIEU

John Parker, second from left, of the IAC addresses plenary in Tijuana.

Cuba and Venezuela.

He reminded the audience that although President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela has held seven elections, U.S. policy makers still talk of lack of democracy in Venezuela. They are targeting Venezuela because it is the fifth-largest producer of oil in the world and is located in the strategically important Amazonian region, and also because it refuses to comply with Washington's orders. The Chavez government is using the oil revenue to address poverty and homelessness. It has enacted laws guaranteeing living wages, education and affordable housing and is proposing new laws defending the right of women to abortion and the defense of the rights of gay people and Venezuelans of African heritage.

Support for Cuban Five

The conference unanimously called for freedom for the Five Cuban heroes held in U.S. prisons. Maria Del Carmen Machado, head of the Department of Education, Communication and Culture of the CTC, explained the Five were not trying to destabilize the U.S. government for a foreign imperialist power, as the mercenaries in Cuba were trying to do, nor engaging in acts of terrorism, as CIA-backed mercenaries have done. They were in

Miami gathering information for the purpose of stopping the terrorist acts of right-wing Cuban groups there.

Rene Gonzalez, one of the Cuban Five, sent a letter to the conference that contrasted two worlds: one based on greed and profiteering, the other based on meeting human needs. Gloria La Riva of the National Committee to Free the Five praised their courage and discipline in pretending to be defectors in the interest of defending the Cuban Revolution. She also alerted the assembly that a decision is expected very soon on their appeal and announced plans for a national speaking tour. Cards and letters supporting the Five and demanding visas for their family members circulated in the crowd.

Andres Gomez, leader of the Antonio Maceo Brigade in the U.S., discussed Washington's immigration policies towards Cuba. A new law allows Cubans living in the U.S. to visit only their immediate family members back home and then only once every three years. He also talked about the Cuban Adjustment Act, which gives Cuban immigrants special treatment, encouraging them to risk their lives to get to the U.S.

Clarence Thomas, co-chair of the

Continued on page 11

UNESCO report:

Cuban education is world-class

By Arturo J. Pérez Saad

The United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on Nov. 8 released its Education For All (EFA) Global Monitoring Report for 2005. This report specifically focuses on elevating the quality education of all children, especially the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, by the year 2015.

Cuba, Canada, Finland and Korea are signaled out in the report as high-performance countries and role models to follow in quality of education.

Cuba, a relatively underdeveloped country of 11.2 million people, spends 10 to 11 percent of its GDP on education, by far the highest ratio of any country in the world. Finland, the next closest, spends 6 percent.

Cuba's educational system is mandatory through the ninth grade, free to all at all levels including higher education and "promotes the whole individual (including physical education, sports, recreation and artistic education) while explicitly linking education with life, work and production." This is done through what Cubans call emulation, a form of competition where the group works together to win as a collective.

The study calls Cuba's educational feats "impressive." Less than 10 years after the revolution, it had reduced illiteracy by 40 percent, achieving a 96.9 percent literacy rate. Its pupils-to-teacher ratio is now 13.5 in primary school and 15 for all levels of education.

The EFA report refers to the first international comparative study conducted by the Latin American Laboratory for Assessment of Quality in Education (1999). This study measured the levels of achievement in the fields of language, mathematics and associated factors for students in the third and fourth years of primary school in 13 Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The major findings of this report are that "Cuban students achieved the highest scores in Language and Mathematics, and take less time to complete a grade (Advancement Rate). This is the case in all of their schools. Differences in achievement for this country, in terms of gender and socio-cultural levels, are also reduced."

President George W. Bush's program titled the "No Child Left Behind Act" has had the opposite result. It has left not only

children behind, but also teachers. The ratio of students per teacher has increased in many schools to over 40 students per instructor. Furthermore, this act has exposed the discrepancy in the educational system here, where low-income children, especially from oppressed groups, will never receive the same quality of education as children in high-wealth districts. The discrepancy is up to \$2,000 per year per student.

The act has paved the way to the militarization of low-income schools, which were given two options: either have military recruiters on their grounds to obtain federal funding or risk school closure. Yet the federal government is stonewalling any progress in improving and elevating the quality of education of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged by underfunding the act by \$7.5 billion, according to the American Federation of Teachers.

The excuse given is the cost of the Iraq War and the funding of Homeland Security, but in reality it is due to the inherent contradictions in class society. Unlike socialist Cuba, where the revolution considers education and healthcare to be fundamental, the U.S. government

deems militarizing young minds more important than elevating the standards of education for all, especially nationally oppressed and low-income children.

According to the American Council on Education, in the \$388-billion omnibus appropriations bill for fiscal year 2005 the Department of Education is underfunded by between \$780 million and \$2.3 billion. More than 84,000 college students are expected to lose Pell Grant eligibility and another 1.2 million will see smaller Pell Grant awards. Those students affected will be from low-income families earning less than \$40,000 a year.

The Bush camp is trying to strengthen the immoral and illegal blockade of Cuba. Through its Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba, the U.S. government has drafted a blueprint on privatizing all sectors of the Cuban economy that were nationalized after the 1959 revolution.

The nationalization of these sectors provided the revolution with the material foundations to set an example for the world in education and health care. The broad people's movement must stop the Bush administration from trying to undo these great advances. □

More than Pinochet

News of the Dec. 14 indictment of the butcher of Chile, Gen. Augusto Pinochet, on charges of murder and kidnapping was certainly welcomed by workers and peasants from Arica to Punta Arenas, as well as around the globe. During the 17 years of iron-fisted rule by this military dictator, some 30,000 workers, students and progressive organizers were massacred and tens of thousands more subjected to torture or exile from their homeland.

The charges are based on just nine victims of this "dirty war."

In the last few years, Pinochet could not travel outside of Chile without fear he would face arrest for these crimes. On Dec. 14, Chilean Judge Juan Guzman Tapia ordered Pinochet held under house arrest—mansion arrest, actually—after it was determined he was competent to stand trial. Attorneys for the hated dictator are already trying to quash the indictment.

Pinochet—then and now—has friends in high places. Those friends, who helped plan, fund and back the counter-revolutionary military coup, are right here in the imperialist citadel. There is no justice until they are in the dock, too. In a people's court.

Start with Richard Nixon's national security advisor, Henry Kissinger, who engineered the coup that carried out the Sept. 11, 1973, fascist "regime change" against the elected president, Salvador Allende, a socialist.

Last December, excerpts from transcripts of June 1976 conversations

between Pinochet and Kissinger were released. "My evaluation," Kissinger said, "is that you are a victim of all left-wing groups around the world, and that your greatest sin was that you overthrew a government that was going Communist."

Kissinger concluded, "You did a great service to the West in overthrowing Allende. Otherwise Chile would have followed Cuba."

Kissinger himself was a willing tool of war criminals even higher up. The Rockefellers—Kissinger's bosses—should be put on trial for their role. And the owners of International Telephone and Telegraph and Anaconda Copper.

These major corporations worked hand-in-hand with the Chilean ruling class to drown the people's aspirations in blood. The U.S. government secretly backed the fascist generals to prevent the Allende regime from carrying out even limited social and economic reforms.

Pinochet, Somoza, Trujillo, Batista. These tyrants took their orders from Washington and Wall Street.

But a new tide of struggle is rising in Latin America and the Caribbean—from Venezuela to Colombia, Haiti to Cuba. With NAFTA and other imperialist neoliberal schemes impoverishing workers everywhere, including in the U.S., and class and anti-imperialist consciousness growing, the prospects for international solidarity and struggle against today's Pinochets and Kissingers are looking brighter. □

What's killing children?

The imperialist system is killing millions of children each year around the world.

A UNICEF report, while it didn't say it in those terms, recently admitted that the lives of 1 billion children are at risk, and earlier gains in child mortality have been stalled.

Poverty, war, HIV/AIDS and other diseases pose the biggest threats, especially in Africa and Asia.

A more focused study, led by Dr. Robert E. Black, chairperson of international health at the School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University, was published in the medical journal *The Lancet*. It estimates that 10.5 million children under the age of 5 die each year, and that more than 60 percent of the deaths are easily preventable.

It doesn't take much to see the connection between these unnecessary deaths and imperialism. Black's study "estimated that in the 42 countries accounting for the vast bulk of the deaths, about 80 percent of children did not receive oral rehydration therapy to fight life-threatening diarrhea; 61 percent were not exclusively breast-fed, weakening the infants' ability to fight off infections; and 60 percent did not receive simple antibiotic treatment for pneumonia, the single largest killer of young children." (*Boston Globe*, Dec. 9)

Diarrhea is caused mainly by a lack of pure water. A minimum investment from the imperialist countries could make drinking water available to the entire

world. It's an investment they refuse to make. In Bolivia, an imperialist corporation based in the U.S., Bechtel, even tried to privatize the water supply for profit, until a mass protest drove them out.

The Swiss-based monopoly, Nestle, once campaigned to urge women in oppressed countries to replace breast-feeding with Nestle's powdered milk formula. The death rates went up from diarrhea—because of the lack of good water—and from other diseases because of decreased immunity. Demonstrations and protests confronted Nestle's, but the negative effect remains.

With pharmaceutical and health-equipment monopolies raking in profits at record rates from their patented drugs and high-tech devices, many have stopped producing older, generic medicines like the antibiotic that would stop pneumonia, as well as oral rehydration therapy equipment.

The criminal lack of public health services in Africa, Asia and much of Latin America can be traced to the demands of the International Monetary Fund that countries cut their social spending to better pay on their debts.

Poverty, war, HIV/AIDS. The plunder of imperialist super-exploitation, the "divide and conquer" ploy the imperialist powers use to help them grab the world's resources, the disruption of unemployment and forced migration that spreads diseases—all are part of how this pernicious system murders children around the world. □

Late 1980s East Germany

Gay/lesbian clubs in Party, state

By Leslie Feinberg

In a landmark ruling on Aug. 11, 1987, the Supreme Court of East Germany set the minimum age of consent for all sexual relations at 14.

This addressed an important legal inequity. In 1968, when the 19th-century Prussian anti-gay laws had been abolished, paragraph 151 was established which set 18 years old as the minimum age of consent for same-sex relations. The minimum age for heterosexual relations remained 14.

The 1987 court decision overturned the conviction of a man who had sex with a youth. The judges found that the minor was openly gay, had visited gay clubs and parties and had sought sexual contact. The only basis for conviction, they ruled, would have been if the sex had not been consensual or the youth had been harmed.

The written ruling created a legal milestone. The justices wrote, "[T]he starting point for a judgment about the sexual relations between persons of the same sex must be the principle that homosexuals just as much as heterosexuals are members of the socialist society and are guaranteed the same rights of citizenship."

And, the court continued, "... homosexual relations between an adult and a person between the ages of 16 and 18 do not necessarily lead to an abnormal development and do not have any other harmful consequences than homosexual relations between two youths or heterosexual relations between an adult and a youth."

The justices concluded, "... discrimination against homosexuals and bigotry is therefore to be opposed. Homosexuals are to be protected by legal regulations and judicial punishment against attacks on their integrity—for example by slander or physical violence or rowdiness—through civil as well as criminal proceedings." (*OUT/LOOK*, Summer 1989)

In 1988, the government in East Berlin declared all discrimination based on sexual orientation illegal.

And in July 1989, the East German parliament officially removed the age of consent discrepancy from the law books.

Satisfying material needs

But the gains for lesbians and gays in the GDR were not merely legal.

As the planned economy demonstrated

momentum, even while encircled and undermined by the capitalist West, living standards rose for all in the GDR—including gays and lesbians. And as the economic struggle for survival eased, so did social relations.

An extensive article in the Winter 1989 *Slavic Review* by researcher Raelynn J. Hillhouse was not particularly sympathetic to the Communist Party and the state, which were shouldering the task of building socialism in the GDR.

But Hillhouse made this pithy observation: "When a socialist state satisfies basic material needs and provides its citizens with a sense of material security, its citizens may gradually shift their political interests to moral matters, gender issues,

environmental concerns, and similar issues. ... The relatively and reliable levels of satisfaction of basic material requirements in the GDR makes such transitions there probable and East German values concerning marriage, gender roles, and sexuality indeed have been liberalizing."

These important advances in social progress were made possible by communist political campaigns to raise consciousness and in turn resulted in raising mass consciousness even higher.

One important indication of this political commitment to change was the creation of gay and lesbian clubs within party and state institutions. And gay and lesbian organizations won official recognition from state officials and moved into the public arena.

The most significant of these was the Berlin "Sunday Club" (*Sonntags-Club*). The group emerged from private discussion circles in the late 1970s. In the early 1980s, the group became more semi-official when officers of a neighborhood youth club worked with gays and lesbians to organize Sunday discussions, cultural events and trips.

The club's application for a "Cultural and Consultation Center" for gays and lesbians was denied in 1983 and 1984 by the city. But the applications, in part, helped propel the Berlin administration to request the creation of the research group at Humboldt University in 1984—the first official gay and lesbian studies committee at a German university—to study the conditions facing the estimated three-quarter of a million gays and lesbians in the GDR.

Next: Lesbian/gay liberation—active support from Communist Party.

Lesbian • gay • bi
and trans
PRIDE
SERIES
PART
23

Workers World Newspaper Give a gift-subscription!

Special introductory rate: \$2 for 8 weeks

\$25 for one year

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Return to: Workers World, 55 West 17 St., 5th Fl., New York, NY 10011

Order online at www.workers.com

Struggle vs. apartheid brings LGBT rights

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

A South African lesbian couple seeking to marry received a favorable ruling on Nov. 30 by that nation's Supreme Court of Appeals. In response to an appeal brought by Marie Adriaana Fourie and Cecelia Johanna Bonthuys, the court stated that "the intended marriage between the appellants is capable of lawful recognition as a legally valid marriage." The court ruled that the South African Marriage Act, which only recognizes marriage between a man and a woman, discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation.

The post-apartheid South African Constitution, signed into effect in 1994 by then-President Nelson Mandela, is unique in the world in specifically banning such discrimination.

The court's ruling applies only to common-law marriage at the moment. However, Evert Knoesen of the Lesbian and Gay Equality Project predicted that same-sex couples will be married in South Africa within the next year, and declared, "The principle has been won." If the necessary

changes are made to its national Marriage Act, South Africa will join the Netherlands and Belgium as the third country to grant fully legal same-sex marriages.

The only political party to object to the court's decision was the far-right African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP), which has no seats in parliament. The platform of the ACDP includes "Christian Principles, Freedom of Religion, An Open Market Economy, and Family Values."

A referendum against the ruling is being organized by a group of churches and other religious organizations, including South African Christian Leadership Assembly (SACLA), which has ties to the International Christian Chamber of Commerce.

The African National Congress party, currently in office, welcomed the ruling. The South African government emphasized that the government "respects the right to dignity and equality as enshrined in the Constitution of the country."

LGBT rights from the Struggle

The author of the court's decision, Judge Edward Cameron, is the country's

highest-ranking openly gay judge, and was a leading opponent of the former racist apartheid regime. He spoke out as a person living with AIDS during the Durban international AIDS conference in 1999. He was appointed to his judgeship by the African National Congress government.

In the introduction to his opinion, Cameron emphasized that the court's decision had its roots in South Africa's long struggle against racism and oppression. He notes that the resulting Constitution was based in "a conception of our nationhood that was both very wide and very inclusive." He continued: "Having themselves experienced the indignity and pain of legally regulated subordination, and the injustice of exclusion and humiliation through law, the majority committed this country to particularly generous constitutional protections for all South Africans."

The constitutional protection of gay rights, which recognizes that Black and white lesbian, gay, and bisexual people participated in the struggle against apartheid, has already been enforced numerous times by the South African

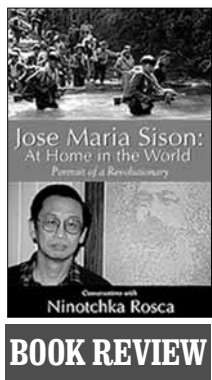
courts. These rulings have overturned the nation's sodomy laws and granted gay couples the right to adopt children—available nationally elsewhere in the world only in Sweden, the Netherlands and Belgium. (Afrol News)

Judge Cameron alluded to this judicial history by saying: "[T]he focus in this case falls on the intrinsic nature of marriage, and the question is whether any aspect of same-sex relationships justifies excluding gays and lesbians from it. What the Constitution asks in such a case is that we look beyond the unavoidable specificities of our condition—such as race, gender and sexual orientation—and consider our intrinsic human capacities and what they render possible for all of us. In this case, the question is whether the capacity for commitment, and the ability to love and nurture and honor and sustain, transcends the incidental fact of sexual orientation. The answer suggested by the Constitution itself and by 10 years of development under it is: yes." (Gay City News)

Sources: *Gay City News*, *Afrol News*, *WorldHistory.com* and *saccla.za.net*.

Philippine revolutionary speaks to the world

By Deirdre Griswold



"Jose Maria Sison: At Home in the World, Portrait of a Revolutionary," *Conversations with Ninotchka Rosca*. Open Hand Publishing, Greensboro, NC, 2004. 272 pp. Cloth \$32, paperback \$16.

This book appears at a time when the class struggle in the Philippines and resistance to relentless U.S. efforts to reimpose colonial rule are escalating.

On Nov. 16, at least seven striking sugar workers were killed by the Philippine army and police. The government is under

pressure from Washington to send troops to Iraq and participate in Bush's "war on terror" by repressing guerrilla struggles of both Muslim separatists and the Communist New People's Army. The Pentagon also wants to reestablish the huge bases it once had in the islands.

Bringing pressure from the other side are the Philippine masses, whose long history of revolutionary activity began more than a century ago when their rebellion against Spanish colonial rule quickly turned into a war of resistance against the new colonizers from North America.

Jose Maria Sison is credited with reviving the Communist Party of the Philippines after its decline in the 1950s. He has been a student organizer, a guerrilla fighter in a people's war, a political prisoner, a theoretician and leader of the CPP. In this book, he tells of his history, his political views, and his struggle to main-

tain his freedom while living in exile in The Netherlands.

Since 9/11, Washington has attempted to equate any revolutionary activity anywhere with terrorism. Under their new rules, those who opposed British rule in the 13 colonies would be categorized as terrorists, as would Sison and all who have sought to throw off the yoke of foreign imperialist oppression.

Sison says that "It is not the CPP and NPA but the U.S. imperialists and their puppets that are responsible for terrorism," and reminds the reader that 1.5 million Filipinos were killed by the U.S. in the first 14 years after it invaded in 1899.

This charge of terrorism is rejected by most of the Filipino people. Many millions have participated in mass organizations of the left that fight every day against the deep poverty and miserable conditions



Jose Maria Sison

suffered by the majority of the people—the heritage of having been looted and exploited for many generations.

Sison's message to the people of the world at the end of the book is valid for Marxists anywhere: "Persevere in the broad anti-imperialist movement. This is the democratic base of the world proletarian revolution. Monopoly capitalism has become more rapacious and violent. We must combat imperialism until its global defeat, build socialism and aim at the attainment of communism." □

Cuban unionists meet with U.S. & Mexican workers

Continued from page 9

Million Worker March and member of International Longshore and Warehouse Workers Union Local 10 in San Francisco, spoke about the need to build an independent workers' movement that will speak for U.S. workers, rather than put their hopes in the Democratic Party, which does nothing for workers and everything for multinational corporations.

John Parker of the International Action Center spoke about the genocide taking place in Iraq as well as the atrocities in Afghanistan, Haiti and Palestine. He also pointed out the U.S. role in terrorism against Venezuela, where Danilo Anderson, the lead prosecutor in charge of investigating pro-coup mercenaries hired by the CIA, was just assassinated.

Parker said the U.S. government is afraid to let people see Cuba. "But all actions have

reactions and it backfires on them," he said, referring to when Cuba decided not to allow dollar transactions anymore.

"We must create unity between labor and the anti-war movement. We must set aside our petty differences and unite for the sake of the movement," Parker urged. He then called on participants to support anti-war actions on March 19 and 20.

Juan Jose Gutierrez of Latino Movement USA said that capital knows no borders, so we must internationalize the struggle. "Capital creates borders to divide and weaken us," he said, proposing Tijuana as the city where our struggles will be united.

Leaders of Mexico's National Workers Union (UNT), Federation of Electrical Workers and Aluminum Workers Union and United Force of Teachers of Mexico also spoke, urging unity and struggle. Workers' struggles outside of unions

included representatives from the Maclovio Rojas community in Tijuana and veterans of the Bracero "guest worker" program.

Cristina Vazquez, regional director of UNITE HERE, representing close to half a million workers in the U.S., gave an update on her union's uphill battle against hotel chains.

The conference ended by adopting resolutions, summarized here:

- Send letters to U.S. authorities demanding visas for the families of the Cuban Five so they can visit their loved ones in U.S. jails.
- Support the travel challenge to Cuba in July 2005.
- Send a delegation to the Fourth Hemispheric Conference on Neoliberal Globalization and FTAA to be held in Havana, Cuba, on April 26-30.
- General amnesty for undocumented

workers. Endorse a National March in Washington, D.C. for amnesty for all immigrants on a date to be announced.

• Demand the U.S. end its military occupation of Iraq—call for troops out now. Endorse Jan. 20 demonstrations against the inauguration of George W. Bush. Endorse unified international days of action on March 19 and 20 against the war in Iraq called by the Million Worker March.

- Demand fair compensation for those who worked in the U.S. between 1942 and 1964 in the "Guest Worker Program" and had 10 percent of their pay withheld but never received the promised payments.
- Support reclaiming May Day demonstrations in the U.S.
- Demand an end to the occupation of Haiti by all foreign troops.
- Support the Bolivarian government of Venezuela. □

Neoliberalismo y resistencia en América Latina

De una intervención por Berta Joubert-Ceci en una reunión del Partido Mundo Obrero (Workers World Party) en Nueva York el 3 de diciembre.

La situación en América Latina debe considerarse en el contexto de la situación mundial, la guerra en el Medio Oriente y la economía de los Estados Unidos.

Estamos hablando de 13 países en América del Sur (incluyendo a las Malvinas como parte de Argentina), ocho en América Central y 24 en el Caribe, con una población combinada de más de 500 millones de personas.

Hay constantes debates a través de la región sobre los orígenes de clase y el potencial revolucionario de los movimientos actuales. Sin embargo podemos dirigirnos a la situación en general que está estimulando estos movimientos, con particular atención a Colombia y Venezuela.

El factor unificador que produjo la actual resistencia es el neoliberalismo. Este término significa una consolidación de las medidas impuestas por el Fondo Monetario Internacional, el Banco Mundial, la Organización Mundial del Comercio y el imperialismo de los EEUU, pero ahora impuestas con un patrón consistente en todos los países.

La justificación de los imperialistas para el neoliberalismo era ayudar a las economías del Tercer Mundo a desarrollarse y resolver sus crisis económicas. Pero la verdadera razón era la de establecer firmemente la dominación capitalista mundial y volver a estos países dependientes y generadores de ganancias para las corporaciones de los EEUU.

Algunos de los rasgos destacados del neoliberalismo son la privatización, el flujo libre del capital, la ausencia o reducción de tarifas, la eliminación de subvenciones para los productos de un país, la reducción de las agencias gubernamentales —en particular las que existen para mejorar la calidad de vida— y la eliminación de los beneficios sociales que protegen a los más pobres y vulnerables.

Otro rasgo importante es el requisito que los gobiernos balanceen sus presupuestos. El dinero que anteriormente era utilizado para financiar las agencias gubernamentales ahora tiene que ser desviado para pagar el déficit y una deuda externa imposible de pagar.

Neoliberalismo enciende resistencia

Lógicamente, la imposición simultánea de estas medidas deja a la población devastada y en condiciones de miseria. Se pierden empleos por la privatización mientras que los precios suben y los programas sociales se reducen o son totalmente eliminados.

En 1980, 120 millones de personas en América Latina y el Caribe vivían en condiciones de pobreza. Al final del 1999, aproximadamente 220 millones de personas eran pobres. Desde 1990 hasta 1995, de los 15,7 millones de empleos creados en América Latina, 13,6 millones eran en la economía informal.

El neoliberalismo ha despertado así una respuesta masiva de parte de los pueblos. El movimiento social en Latinoamérica es muy diverso pero principalmente es antiimperialista dado que la lucha contra el neoliberalismo ha sido su meta primordial.

En general, este es un movimiento nuevo con fuerzas distintas a las de épocas pasadas. Junto a las luchas tradicionales encabezadas por los sindicatos y los campesinos, nuevas formas de lucha y nuevas formaciones políticas están emergiendo.

Los pueblos indígenas están defendiendo sus culturas y sus terrenos que están asediados por las corporaciones transnacionales; l@s estudiantes están defendiendo su derecho a la educación; las mujeres están haciendo reconocer su lugar en la lucha y organizando para defender las necesidades de sus familias; las lesbianas y homosexuales están defendiendo sus derechos; l@s afrodescendientes están luchando contra el racismo— todos son componentes vitales del movimiento en diferentes grados según los países.

Debemos recordar que el terrorismo estatal y las dictaduras militares han sido responsables por diezmar a los partidos comunistas y socialistas de la región. Chile y Argentina son ejemplos muy bien conocidos. Pero toda Latinoamérica y el Caribe es una región donde hasta los mínimos intentos de reforma han sido suprimidos, bañados en sangre. La disolución de la Unión Soviética también tuvo un impacto en las fuerzas progresistas, al igual que en el resto del mundo.

En varios países, los nuevos movimientos han forzado la elección de presidentes que, por lo menos en sus discursos de candidatura, se oponían a los acuerdos de “libre comercio” neoliberales. Este es el caso de Argentina, Ecuador, Brasil, Bolivia y Uruguay.

Colombia en estado de sitio

Mientras que los Estados Unidos interviene militar, económica y diplomáticamente en todos los países de la región, está más profundamente involucrado en Colombia. Y la razón es la insurgencia armada.



Ya sabemos bien que el Plan Colombia no era un esfuerzo contra la droga. Esto se ha revelado al mundo como lo que verdaderamente es, un plan de contrainsurgencia. El presidente de los EEUU George W. Bush ha extendido el Plan Colombia a la Iniciativa Andina.

Recientemente, el Congreso de los EEUU aprobó el aumentar en un 100% la cantidad de efectivos militares y contratistas de los EEUU permitidos operar en Colombia—todo para fortalecer la ofensiva contra la insurgencia.

Colombia es el segundo país más grande de Sudamérica. Comparte fronteras con Venezuela, Panamá, Ecuador, Perú y Brasil, con la ventaja además de tener costas en los océanos Pacífico y Atlántico. Es rica en recursos naturales, con una gran biodiversidad. Circunstancias que hacen de Colombia un país único —y muy deseable para el apetito imperialista.

Después de que el Presidente Hugo Chávez asumió el poder en Venezuela en 1998, la frontera colombo-venezolana atrajo atención adicional y se hizo aún más importante para el imperialismo estadounidense por el petróleo venezolano.

La resistencia armada en Colombia incluye al movimiento guerrillero continuo más antiguo en el continente —las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército Popular (FARC-EP). Surgió en 1964 en la cumbre de la efervescencia comunista y progresista.

Las FARC han crecido hasta aproximadamente 15.000 miembros. Para el año 2000 controlaba el 40 por ciento del territorio colombiano. El Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN), otro movimiento guerrillero inspirado en la Revolución Cubana, tiene fuerzas de aproximadamente 4.000.

Durante toda su historia, las FARC han intentado a incluir a la población civil para construir una Colombia democrática y justa a través de asambleas populares, comunicados frecuentes y otras iniciativas.

Cada administración ha respondido con violencia a los intentos de la guerrilla de negociar una solución política. Pero la administración actual del Presidente Álvaro Uribe ha sido la más violenta e intransigente.

Uribe, un fascista leal a los Estados Unidos, está incluso tratando de cambiar la Constitución de su país para poder ser reeligido, dándose así más tiempo para poder exterminar a la guerrilla y a toda la oposición a su programa neoliberal.

Grupos no-armados en la mira

Uribe impuso la llamada Acta de Seguridad Democrática que criminaliza la oposición política e incrementa los poderes del ejército y de la policía.

El presidente declaró que una huelga de trabajadores petroleros contra la privatización de ECOPEPETROL, la industria petrolera nacional, era ilegal. Si una huelga es considerada ilegal, los trabajadores pueden ser blanco del sistema

judicial que puede detenerlos, de la compañía que les puede despedir de su trabajo, y de los paramilitares que pueden amenazarlos y asesinarlos.

Uribe considera a todo grupo de oposición no armado como simpatizante de la guerrilla, aún cuando no lo sea. Esto incluye organizaciones religiosas, sindicatos, movimientos sociales de indígenas y afro-colombianos, mujeres, jóvenes y estudiantes, campesinos, etc.

Cualquier insinuación de que una persona tenga alguna conexión con la guerrilla puede ser una sentencia de muerte. Ese activista y su familia serán añadidos a la lista de víctimas de los paramilitares.

Los ataques contra el movimiento no armado van desde detenciones y encarcelamientos masivos, a amenazas de muerte y hasta asesinatos y masacres. L@s que están detenid@s no tienen el derecho a saber quiénes son sus denunciantes, los cuales generalmente son informantes pagados.

Las masacres suelen suceder generalmente en esos sitios donde las compañías, particularmente estadounidenses, ganarían si el lugar estuviera despoblado: lugares para desarrollar megaproyectos y regiones con recursos naturales valiosos.

Solidaridad con los rebeldes

Los Estados Unidos desean otra Faluya, otra Guernica, en Colombia — a espaldas de la comunidad internacional.

Ahora es más necesario que nunca explicar la verdadera naturaleza de la insurgencia armada en Colombia. El movimiento internacional no debe distanciarse de l@s rebeldes, sino colocarles al lado de las resistencias iraquí y palestina.

La insurgencia no lucha solamente por el pueblo colombiano sino por todos los pueblos de Latinoamérica. Y además es absolutamente necesaria para la consolidación de la Revolución Bolivariana que está teniendo lugar en Venezuela. A menos que no se logre una paz con justicia social en Colombia, seguirán las amenazas desde ese territorio hacia Venezuela. Los paramilitares colombianos, obedeciendo a los intereses de los EEUU ya han hecho incursiones contra Venezuela desde la región de Arauca.

Junto a Cuba, Venezuela ahora representa la esperanza de los pueblos pobres de la región y del mundo. Cada día la Revolución Bolivariana se mueve más y más del capitalismo hacia el socialismo.

La amenaza que la Revolución Bolivariana le plantea a los imperialistas está ilustrada por los muchos intentos por parte de Washington de derrocar a Chávez, el financiamiento de la oposición venezolana a través de la Fundación Nacional para la Democracia, y los asesinatos de líderes revolucionarios como Danilo Anderson.

Es el deber de cada revolucionari@ defender la lucha justa de nuestras hermanas y hermanos en la insurgencia colombiana así como la Revolución Bolivariana, al mismo tiempo que nos oponemos a la guerra imperialista en Irak y en todas partes del mundo. □